

denounced the half-heartedness of the generals of the Army and especially Cromwell. "You shall scarce speak to Cromwell," said Lilburne, a brave but hot-headed leader of the Levellers, "but he will lay his hand on his breast, elevate his eyes, and call God to record. He will weep, howl, and repent, even while he doth smite you under the fifth rib." While the army was preparing for the Irish War, the movement of the Levellers developed into open rebellion. Cromwell urged the Council to adopt strong measures. "You must break these people in pieces," said Cromwell to the Council of State; "if you do not break them, they will break you." He was at once despatched to put down the rising. After a forced march of fifty miles, he came upon the mutinous regiments in the dead of night at Burford, in Oxfordshire, and completely overpowered them. Three of the leaders were shot, and the rest were pardoned and returned to their duty. By Cromwell's prompt action the rebellion was quickly suppressed.

(2) **Opposition to the Commonwealth in Ireland.** Meanwhile affairs in Ireland wore a very threatening aspect. Ever since the rebellion of 1641 Ireland had been the scene of anarchy and bloodshed. The Anglo-Irish Royalists under the Marquis of Ormonde now joined the Roman Catholic Irish, and refused to acknowledge the Commonwealth. Cromwell was sent by the Council of State to suppress the revolt, and having landed in Dublin, the only large town then in the hands of the Parliament, both he and his men were eager to avenge the terrible massacre of eight years before. "We are come," he said on landing, "to ask an account of the innocent blood, that hath been shed, and to endeavour to bring to an account all, who by appearing in arms, shall justify the same." Meanwhile, Ormonde had suffered a severe defeat at **Rathmines**, but he was determined to prolong the war by strengthening all the large towns. At **Drogheda** he stationed about 3,000 of his best men under Sir Arthur Aston. Cromwell promptly stormed the place and cruelly put to death almost all the garrison. Those who escaped, fled to St. Peter's Church, "whereupon," he writes, in his terrible despatch to Parliament, "I ordered the steeple to be burned; in the church itself nearly 1,000 were put to the